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EDITORIALS

Chart of US Goals Held
Out of Political Battle

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A commission has been at work for several months on the task of defining American national goals.

We've told now it will hold back its report until after the November election, so as to keep its findings "out of the political campaign."

The chart of national goals was suggested by President Eisenhower in his 1953 State of the Union message to Congress, but it was not created and its members appointed until February.

The group named to draft this document is bipartisan, made up of Republicans, Democrats, and Independents.

Its report may not be a world-shaking event, but we are told the aims will bring the American people a little closer to their government and sharpen their interest in national policy.

Henry M. Wriston, former president of Brown University and now president of the American Assembly, is chairman of the group. William P. Bundy, former Central Intelligence Agency official, is staff director, and a group of 15 recognized authorities has been recruited to write an extensive background book, as the working document from which the commission will write its summary report. Names of these experts have not been announced. Subjects on which they

will prepare analyses and recommendations include:

Foreign and defense policy, with emphasis on the Communist menace; economic growth, labor, management, urban and farm problems, government, education, cultural values, human needs, the democratic process, individual rights and various long-term programs. That seems to cover everything.

President Eisenhower, in appointing the commission gave it the assignment "to develop a broad outline of coordinated national policies and programs for the next decades and beyond."

A spokesman for the commission said more of the things it will not attempt than of the recommendations it may make. He said no effort will be made to predict or prescribe for every problem the nation will face. The report will state national objectives, not detailed policies, but will try to avoid generalities. It is designed to be specific enough to serve as the basis of legislative programs.

"There is no intention to write a new Declaration of Independence, nor 'Goals for America' for children to recite," the spokesman was quoted. "It is hoped the report will be useful abroad as a statement of American purposes and principles; but it will not be a handbook of conduct for other countries' governments and affairs."

The report will be addressed to the American people, with emphasis on individual action—what the average citizen can do.

Stressed was the fact that the work of the commission and staff is being financed by private foundations, and not by tax money.

Serving with Wriston on this little-publicized policy-charting commission are: Frank Pace Jr., former Army secretary, an Arkansas Democrat, vice chairman; President James R. Killian of Massachusetts Institute of Technology; President Alfred Gruenther of the American Red Cross; Clark Kerr, president of the University of California; Judge Learned Hand; Erwin Canham, editor of the Christian Science Monitor; former Governor Colgate Darden of Virginia; James B. Conant, former president of Harvard; George Meany, president of the AFL-CIO, and Crawford Greenwalt, president of DuPont.